

ment of the punctiform ornamentation of the derm; magn. 500 diams.

Fig. 6. The process of self-division, just half an hour before separation; ventral view; magn. 200 diams.

Fig. 7. Profile of i. fig. 6, just at the moment of separation; magn. 200 diams.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Travels and Researches in Crete. By Captain T. A. B. SPRATT, R. N., C. B., F. R. S. &c. In two vols. 8vo. London: Van Voorst, 1865.

IN carrying out the Mediterranean Survey, the Island of Crete came under examination by Capt. Spratt, whose acquaintance with the requirements of his own profession, with the ancient and modern history of the Greeks, their early works of art, coins, monuments, and buildings, with the natural history of land and sea in the Mediterranean area, and with the geological structure of every mountain, coast, and islet he visited, render him peculiarly capable of doing justice to so interesting a region as Crete. The form and character of that island, from mountain to plain, the sites of its cities, its ravines, caves, and water-courses, are so visibly explicable by their rocky structure, that to shut one's eyes to their geological is to misinterpret their topographical relations. Its highlands and valleys, as well as the coast and the deep sea, are strikingly remarkable in their natural products. Its old forgotten cities rise up to intelligent research, and the ancient ruins take definite form and their true place in history, when learning and sagacity unravel the half-true legends of the place. In Crete are found statuary and coins of the finest style, and of a school dating from an earlier time than Athenian art could boast of; for it was the cradle of Greek learning and much of Greek mythology. Lastly, there still exist genuine Cretan Greeks, whose ancestors (under the Roman sway) heard Paul preach at Fair Havens,—under the Byzantines, Saracens, Franks, and Venetians, played their mediæval part in quarrels, bigotry, and trade, and, well versed in war, withstood the Turk for more than twenty years,—and under the Turk have suffered all that brings out the debasing vices and exceptional virtues of a conquered race.

Following Capt. Spratt in his account of Crete (the eastern part of which he more particularly treats of, as having been left undescribed by Pashley), we find the natural features of the country, the remnants of Greek buildings and works of art, mediæval relics, the peculiarities of the present population—the old highland Sfakiote breed, hardy, unscrupulous, and cruel, and the lowland Candiotes of mixed origin—all carefully noted and elucidated by a scientific acquaintance with nature and by a knowledge of classic literature and history; whilst an eye for beauty in nature and art—enthusiasm in working out the traces of long-past civilization, the early source, in great part, of our present culture—a warm sympathy with all

that is human, lowered though it be as the outcast leper of benighted Crete—and a hearty, honest, common-sense view of men and manners, give a good tone and genuine feeling to all his observations. In fact, the naturalist, geologist, geographer, antiquary, and general reader cannot fail to be interested and instructed by this work. Its illustrations are first-rate: two excellent geological and topographical maps; a dozen good chromo-lithographs of scenery, with some other plates; numerous small lithographs on india-paper inserted in the text, besides several woodcuts, are all well executed, and help the reader. A delicately tinted lithograph of *Cestum Veneris* and *Beroë* illustrates a long and careful account of these beautiful creatures. A chapter is devoted to the sponge-divers and their surroundings; and a picturesque group of their fishing-boats is shown in a coloured plate.

Appendices on Cretan and modern Greek (by Viscount Strafford); on Deep-sea Soundings; on Currents in the Mediterranean; on the Salinity of the Black Sea and Mediterranean; on the Geology of Crete, and its relations with Malta and Africa; on the Birds (by Col. Drummond-Hay) and the Land-Shells of Crete; and on the Greek inscriptions found in Crete (by Dr. Churchill Babington), carry out more fully some of the researches and favourite topics of our author.

One of the characteristics of Capt. Spratt is most pleasantly shown in the honest and genial acknowledgment of the labours of his colleagues in the Nautical Survey, of the aid of other friends in his scientific and literary work, and of the strong and lasting influence that he believes the genius and philosophy of his lamented friend Edward Forbes have had in rousing, shaping, and supporting that activity of research which is so handsomely represented by these volumes—which is so well known by many circles of his countrymen and foreigners, and always so modestly referred to by himself.

Handbook of British Water-weeds, or Algæ. By Dr. JOHN EDWARD GRAY, F.R.S., late President of the Botanical Society of London.
The Diatomaceæ, by W. CARRUTHERS, F.L.S. &c. London: Hardwicke, 1865.

THIS little work contains an arrangement of all the Algæ or Water-weeds hitherto recorded as found in Great Britain and Ireland, referred to the most recent genera, and fills up a desideratum that has for several years been felt by the botanical student.

The black- and red-seeded Algæ, which, with very few exceptions, are all marine, are arranged in the families, genera, and subgenera used by Professor Jacob George Agardh in his 'Species, Genera, et Ordines Algarum,' lately published in Sweden, with the alterations suggested in the system proposed by Professor Harvey, in his account of the American Algæ, published by the Smithsonian Institution. The species are all accompanied by a short diagnosis and a reference to the best figure which has been given of them from specimens in a living state, Harvey's 'Phycologica Britannica' being the work almost always referred to.